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"Electric Revolution" set for March BPA and others plan to reveal new energy technologies on March 18 and 19

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PORTLAND, Ore. – Get ready for a revolution in the electric utility industry. Leaders are planning to reveal new energy technologies and discuss what they mean to consumers at the "Electric Revolution" symposium that will take place March 18 and 19 at the Oregon Convention Center.

"A revolution is occurring in distributed energy technologies. This change has the potential to be as quick and radical as the shift from mainframe computers to personal computers," said Jack Robertson, deputy administrator for the Bonneville Power Administration. Experts from the Pacific Northwest to Norway agree.

Distributed technologies include such things as small-scale combustion turbines, fuel cells and the use of hydrogen, new designs in wind power and solar photovoltaics and increased efficiency at the point of use.

Invited speakers include Dan Reicher, assistant secretary, DOE; Mark Hatfield, former U.S. Senator for Oregon; Ralph Cavanagh, senior attorney, Natural Resources Defense Council; Brent Alderfer, Colorado public utility commissioner; Scott Cauchois, senior staff for the California public utility commission; Amory Lovins, director of research, Rocky Mountain Institute; Dave Slawson, president, Sterling Energy; Terry Kraft-Oliver, managing director, International Institute for Energy Conservation/Thailand; Walt Pollock, senior vice-president, Portland General Electric; Judi Johansen, BPA administrator and others.

They will discuss such issues as

- Burgeoning distributed generation technologies brought by deregulation;
- Implications for the Northwest and the nation;
- How to plan energy choices wisely, including cost, reliability and environmental benefits;
- How to find new markets and business opportunities;
- How to face new expectations and needs from consumers;
- Where to find the money to finance distributed power and efficiency projects.

Nearly 30 exhibitors will demonstrate fuel cells, solar shingles and other new sources of distributed power.

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The symposium co-sponsors are the Bonneville Power Administration, and the Bonneville Environmental Foundation, an independent, non-profit charitable organization. Supporting sponsors are the Northwest Public Power Association and the Public Power Council.

To register for attendance, contact Cheri Larson by E-mail at cllarson@bpa.gov or call her at 503-230-3325.

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